



# Barbara J. Jordan

Miami-Dade County Commissioner

## Opa-locka residents may be eligible for beautification and rehabilitation dollars

Commissioner Barbara J. Jordan wants to remind Opa-locka residents of an important beautification program available through Miami-Dade County's Community Action Agency (CAA) and the Opa-Locka Community Development Corporation (OLCDC).



**Before**



**After**

*The CAA's Beautification Program has helped many homeowners in Opa-locka with exterior painting and landscaping. The above photos show the program made basic cosmetic improvements to the exterior of this home before (left) and after (right) with a new paint color, and the planting of trees and grass at the front of the house.*

The CAA Beautification Program provides homeowners of single-family homes with exterior painting and landscaping worth up to \$5,900 if they meet the maximum income requirement (see attached table). Contractors for this program are selected by Miami-Dade County, with financing provided through the Housing Finance Authority. Property owners can select one of eight color combinations for the exterior of their home, and one of three landscaping choices. In order to qualify, applicants must:

- Own the home that will be included in the beautification project
- Own a detached single-family home (not an apartment or duplex)
- Not own any other investment properties
- Meet the maximum income requirements listed in the attachment

Other paperwork is required, including W-2s, pay stubs, mortgage statements, and more. For more information on qualifying for the Beautification Program, please contact Corey Jones at 786-469-4655.

For those homeowners looking to repair a leaky roof, old windows, electrical systems, and other major improvements, the OLCDC is offering loans of up to \$30,000 to rehabilitate qualified homes. The loan's interest rates

are very low and in some cases forgivable, based on income and family size. Property owners will have to fill out an application that can be found at [www.olcdc.org/rehabloans.htm](http://www.olcdc.org/rehabloans.htm) and submit the required documentation. Residents can contact Bonnye Deese, Director of Housing and Financial Services,

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## Comm. Barbara J. Jordan crowned Queen Mother by Ghanaian king

Commissioner Jordan was crowned during a special ceremony at a two-day Ghanaian Festival at Florida Memorial University. On May 23, Commissioner Jordan and her colleague Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson were crowned "Queen Mothers" by His Majesty King Tettey Tsuru III of Accra, Ghana. The title of "Queen Mother" is traditionally given to Ghanaian women who are recognized for determining and addressing the needs of their constituents. These women become "Women Warriors" who campaign for the betterment of their respective communities. The commissioners participated in an authentic Ghanaian ceremony, where they received the traditional armament worn by women of the Ga Tribe.

"It is an honor to receive such a prestigious recognition from His Majesty, who traveled far to bring his culture to our community," said Commissioner Jordan. "I will continue to work for the betterment of Miami-Dade County and uphold the high standards of a Queen Mother."

The Back Bone Cultural Group sponsored the Ghanaian Festival in order to increase awareness of African culture and bring reconciliation between Africans and Americans of African descent. Also participating in the festival was the Conservation and Environment Portfolio Committee of Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa. The group met with local officials to understand the management of environmental and conserva-

tion affairs that concern water, parks, and other natural resources that may potentially be adversely affected by urban and or economic development.



*Commissioner Jordan (center) is crowned by His Majesty King Tettey Tsuru III of Accra, Ghana (second from left) as "Queen Mother" during a special Ghanaian Festival at Florida Memorial University.*



## Commissioner's Message

While Miami-Dade has been spared from serious hurricanes and tropical storms in recent years, it's vital that residents are prepared throughout Atlantic Hurricane Season, which lasts from June 1 to November 30.

There are plenty of things you and your family can do now to prepare. In fact, Miami-Dade County offers several services that can help you in the event of a storm:

- Single family households that receive Solid Waste Management's full residential services can request free bulky waste service for up to 25 cubic yards twice per fiscal year (October 1 - September 30). Call 3-1-1 or visit [www.miamidade.gov/dswm](http://www.miamidade.gov/dswm) to schedule a pickup and remove debris from your property before a storm hits.
- Residents who require daily skilled nursing care, assistance with daily living, or have life-saving medical equipment dependent on electricity should register for the Special Needs Registry and Emergency Evacuation Assistance Program. This program is specifically for those individuals who live alone or with their families, and not in a managed care facility such as an assisted living facility or nursing home. Call 3-1-1 or visit [www.miamidade.gov/oem](http://www.miamidade.gov/oem) to register.
- Whatever plans you make for yourself, remember to include your pets. If you need to go to an evacuation center, Miami-Dade County has Pet-Friendly Hurricane Evacuation Centers. For the application and instructions on accessing these centers, please visit the Animal Services website at [www.miamidade.gov/asd](http://www.miamidade.gov/asd).

The County's Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security has prepared its annual Hurricane Guide with tips on what to do before, during, and after a storm. This free guide is available to residents on the County's website at [www.miamidade.gov/hurricane](http://www.miamidade.gov/hurricane). If you'd like a hard copy in English, Spanish, or Creole, call 3-1-1 and request a guide from an Answer Specialist.

Stay safe and prepared this hurricane season!

**Barbara J. Jordan**

Miami-Dade County Commission, District One

## Opa-locka residents may be eligible for beautification and rehabilitation dollars

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at 305-687-3545, ext. 238 for more information on the Rehabilitation Program.

The Opa-locka Beautification and Rehabilitation programs expanded in 2007 when Commissioner Jordan pushed to improve the embattled neighborhood known as The Triangle. The boundaries of the program now include the entire Opa-locka city limits.

"Opa-locka residents may still not be aware that they are eligible for

these program dollars that can greatly improve homes that are falling into disrepair," said Commissioner Jordan, who spearheaded the program's legislation in 2006. "Since this program's inception, more than 100 homes have undergone improvements, from cosmetic to more in depth maintenance. I strongly encourage Opa-locka residents who may not be able to fund such improvements themselves to look into these beautification and rehabilitation projects."

*Commissioner Barbara Jordan, who also chairs the County's Transit, Infrastructure and Roads Committee, toured the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC) on June 10, 2010 to view progress on the massive centralized transportation hub under construction at Miami International Airport, including the new Metrorail station being built as part of Miami-Dade Transit's AirportLink project. The AirportLink, a 2.4-mile Metrorail line between the MIC and the existing Earlington Heights Metrorail station, is expected to open in spring 2012 and will provide a reliable rapid transit connection to the airport for the millions of visitors, residents and commuters who go to and from the airport every year.*



*Bishop Isaiah S. Williams Jr.'s was honored posthumously by Commissioner Jordan with the street dedication on June 15, with NW 42nd Avenue now known as "Bishop Isaiah S. Williams Jr. Boulevard." The nearly 300 people in attendance honored the late Williams by wearing white at the request of his wife, Dr. Gloria Williams. Bishop Williams started the Jesus People Ministries Church International (JPMCI), located at 4055 NW 183rd Street in Miami Gardens, where Williams served as founder, CEO and pastor. Under his leadership, JPMCI has grown to more than 8,000 members; the ministry has an even larger number of partners throughout the U.S. and beyond.*

# Nearly 500 homeowners seek housing help at Foreclosure Prevention Clinic



(Photo credits: Ryan Holloway/Miami-Dade County)

*Commissioner Jordan addresses the nearly 500 homeowners who attended her foreclosure prevention clinic.*

At 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 19, residents had already begun lining up outside of Florida Memorial University for what they hoped would be an end to their housing woes. The doors to the Smith Conference Center opened at 9 a.m. for Commissioner Jordan's Foreclosure Prevention & Homebuyers' Assistance Clinic. The free event was hosted by the commissioner, Miami-Dade Housing Finance Authority, and Miami-Dade Affordable Housing Foundation, Inc.

Nearly 500 residents sought foreclosure help from housing, financial, and legal experts. Representatives from the Miami-

Dade Property Appraiser's Office, Miami-Dade Community Action Agency, NID Housing Counseling Agency, the Burton Firm, The Law Firm of Ducheine-Baker & Associates, Equivest Law Group, The Law Office of James A. Bonfiglio, the Law Office of Gioia DeCarlo, and Legal Services of Greater Miami were on hand to address homeowners' questions throughout the day. Attendees received free counseling on delinquency procedure, understanding options, delinquency counseling, and anticipated lender sessions. In addition, Bank of America, CHASE, Citi, HSBC and Wells Fargo / Wachovia were on hand to meet with their borrowers and in many cases approved on-the-spot loan modifications of reduced interest rates or reduced payments.

Residents waiting to meet with their banks were motivated by the testimonies of homeowners who enthusiastically shared their success stories of how they benefitted from the clinic. One homeowner facing eviction mentioned that the bank was able to waive the arrearage and lower the monthly payments. Another success story involved a homeowner whose interest rates were lowered from 9% to 2.5%.

"Many thanks to all of the participants who offered their expertise pro bono to residents in need," said Commissioner Jordan. "As Miami-Dade recovers from the recession and the housing struggles that came with it, property owners need to be aware of all the options available to them to save their homes."

## Miami Gardens resident honored for protecting U.N. members against Taliban

Louis Maxwell, Jr., who was a resident of the City of Miami Gardens, was honored on May 24 for his role in staving off a terrorist attack against United Nations employees in Afghanistan last year. Commissioner Jordan, along with Miami Gardens Mayor Shirley Gibson, dedicated a portion of NW 37th Avenue from NW 199th Street to County Line Road as "Louis Maxwell, Jr. Street."

Maxwell, a former Navy Serviceman, became a United Nations Close Protection officer in Kabul, Afghanistan. On November 4, 2009, as he was securing a residential hotel housing United Nations employees, Taliban militants armed with assault rifles and suicide vests stormed the facility during a daylight attack. Maxwell and other security officers, armed with only handguns in their possession, were able to hold off the Taliban long enough for 34 civilians sleeping in the facility to escape.

Unfortunately, Maxwell was killed while defending the hotel and its occupants.

"The fact that Mr. Maxwell had the wherewithal to protect the U.N. employees in the midst of all that chaos demonstrates a level of bravery that is rare," said Commissioner Jordan. "Miami-Dade owes Mr. Maxwell and his family a great debt for upholding our freedom overseas."

Maxwell's family was also present at the ceremony to see the unveiling of the co-designated street. The marching band from Miami Central Senior High School, his alma mater, played the Star Spangled Banner.

Moved by Maxwell's story, Commissioner Jordan sponsored legislation to create the Miami-Dade Honor guard to serve at the request of families for Miami-Dade Residents who have lost their lives while serving in the United State Military



(Photo credits: Armando Rodriguez/MDC)

*Commissioner Jordan (second from right) honors Louis Maxwell, Jr. for saving U.N. employees from a Taliban attack in Afghanistan.*

or international peace-keeping force in defense of the U.S. In addition, she also called for the creation of the Miami-Dade County Medal of Valor to serve as the highest honor the County can bestow upon a person who voluntarily risked

## District One Silver Knight honorees lauded

On June 3, 2010, Commissioner Jordan congratulated the young men and women in her district who were nominated for the Miami Herald Silver Knight Awards for exemplary community service. Nine high school seniors from District One were honored by the publication at the James L. Knight Center last month, three of them winning the Silver Knight Award and the others earning distinction as Honorable Mentions. Silver Knight nominees are selected in a variety of academic categories. Each winner received \$2,000, a Silver Knight statuette, a medallion, and a round-trip ticket from American Airlines. Commissioner Jordan decided to recognize the honorees from District One with congratulatory certificates in Commission Chambers.



*Commissioner Jordan and Vice-Chairman Jose "Pepe" Diaz (far right) with some of the Silver Knight winners and honorable mentions from District One.*

## Legislative Matters Important to You

Commissioner Barbara Jordan is committed to serving the residents of District One by sponsoring legislation that is in their best interest. Here are some of the items sponsored by Commissioner Jordan that are being considered or have been adopted by the Board of County Commissioners:

**ADOPTED:** Resolution declaring surplus County-owned land located at 3090 NW 135 Street in Miami-Dade County, and authorizing the conveyance of land to the North Miami Beach Medical Center, Inc., in accordance with Florida Statute .125.38.

**ADOPTED:** Resolution amending Resolution No. R-84-09 to provide for grant rather than loan of District 1 Housing Allocation in amount \$3,092,377.63 to UDG III Oasis, LLC to fund construction of Lake Vue Oasis affordable single family residences.

**ADOPTED:** Resolution urging the Florida Legislature and Governor Charlie Crist's Administration to reduce the State's prison spending by implementing less costly and more effective alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders.

**ADOPTED:** Resolution approving significant modification to Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond Program Project No. 317 – "Parks Improvements in District 1."

## How you can help

There are always opportunities for private citizens to serve on committees that make important decisions that affect residents, neighborhoods, projects and programs all across Miami-Dade County. Commissioner Jordan is looking for District One residents to sit on the following committees:

- Biscayne Bay Shoreline Development Review Committee
- Construction Trades Qualifying Board of County Commissioners
- Enterprise Advisory Council
- Industrial Development Authority
- International Trade Consortium
- Manatee Protection Plan Review Committee
- Parks and Recreation Citizens Oversight Committee
- Safe Neighborhood Parks Citizens Oversight Committee
- Urban Economic Revitalization Task Force

For more information, or to be considered to sit on any of these committees, please call the District One downtown office at 305-375-5694.

### District One Staff

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